GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1095
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2016
Procurement of Lentils
Vellaigounder Shri Elumalai

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the harvesting of many agricultural produce has begun in many parts of the country and that the Government is gearing up to procure lentils at the minimum support price to avoid distress sale by farmers;
(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether the country has been witnessing a situation wherein the farmers have to sell their produce at a throw away price to recover the cost due to delay in procurement by the Government agencies; and
(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to prevent recurrences of such distress sales?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY)

(a) & (b) : Harvesting of the kharif crops has started. Lentil is a Rabi crop which is harvested during the months of February to April. Government would procure lentils under Price Stabilisation Fund (PSF) Scheme towards building the approved buffer stock of 20 lakh tonnes of pulses.

(c) & (d) : The Government is implementing Price Stabilisation Scheme (PSS) and Price Stabilisation Fund (PSF) Scheme to purchase specific agricultural commodities through designated Central agencies. In case of PSS, procurement is being undertaken at the Minimum Support Price (MSP) declared by the Government of India for the season whereas in PSF, procurement is being made at prevailing market rates with MSP as the floor rate. In addition, Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) may also be implemented on the request of State Government for procurement of perishable and horticultural commodities to support their prices in the event of fall in market prices.
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